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In re Application of	:	
BORN et al.	:	
Application No.: 10/534,369	:	COMMUNICATION
PCT No.: PCT/EP2003/010458	:	
Int. Filing Date: 19 September 2003	:	
Priority Date: 07 November 2002	:	
Attorney's Docket No.: 10537/290	:	
For: MOTOR VEHICLE STEERING COLUMN	:	

This decision is in response to applicants' submission filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on 03 July 2007.

**BACKGROUND**

On 19 September 2003, applicants filed international application PCT/EP2003/010458, which designated the United States and claimed a priority date of 07 November 2002. A copy of the international application was communicated to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) from the International Bureau on 21 May 2004. The thirty-month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired at midnight on 09 May 2005 (07 May 2005 being a Saturday).

On 09 May 2005, applicants filed a transmittal letter for entry in to the national stage in the United States which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the U.S. Basic National Fee and an unexecuted declaration of inventors.

On 04 October 2005, the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) mailed a NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) indicating, *inter alia*, that applicant must provide an oath or declaration of the inventors in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a)-(b) and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.492(h). The NOTIFICATION set a two-month extendable period for reply.

On 24 October 2005, applicants filed a declaration of inventors and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.492(h).

On 23 February 2007, the DO/EO/US mailed a NOTIFICATION OF ABANDONMENT

(Form PCT/DO/EO/909) indicating that the application was abandoned as to the United States of America for failure to respond to the NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS mailed 04 October 2005.

On 27 March 2007, applicants filed a "PETITION TO WITHDRAW ERRONEOUS HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT" which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, a copy of the submission filed 24 October 2005 and a copy of a Customer Copy of Express Mail mailing label number EV320244963US.

On 30 April 2007, a decision was mailed dismissing applicants' petition as moot since the submission originally filed 24 October 2005 was in the application file. The NOTIFICATION OF ABANDONMENT mailed 23 February 2007 was VACATED. The decision also noted, however, that the declaration filed 24 October 2005 was not sufficient because it contained non-initialed alterations. A proper declaration was required.

On 03 July 2007, applicants filed the instant submission which includes a declaration of inventors.

#### DISCUSSION

The declaration of inventors filed 03 July 2007 is sufficient and is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a)-(b).

#### CONCLUSION

This application is being forwarded to the National Stage Processing Branch of the Office of PCT Operations to continue national stage processing of the application in accordance with this decision.

/Daniel Stemmer/

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